

SAINT IVES (HUNTS.)  
AND  
SWAVESEY  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS.



REPORT

*For the Year 1894.*

BY

BUSHELL ANNINGSON, M.D., M.A.,

UNIVERSITY LECTURER IN MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE,  
FELLOW SANITARY INSTITUTE, ASSOCIATE KING'S  
COLLEGE, LONDON, &c. &c.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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1895.

The form of my annual report requires on the present occasion a few words of explanation. The area for which I have had the honour to act during the year 1894, has by the Local Government Act, 1894, become divided into two Rural District Councils. The memorandum of the Local Government Board (issued at the end of December) as to annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, directs the Medical Officer of Health to "send to each District Council either a report on the whole area for which he has acted during the year 1894, or a report relating to so much of that area as on the 31st December, 1894, is under the jurisdiction of each such District Council." I have been obliged to adopt the former alternative for the reason that the two new districts are not co-terminous with the Registration Sub-districts for which my return of vital statistics had been made up. I hope that this arrangement may have the approval of the respective District Councils.

BUSHELL ANNINGSON.



# REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to present to the Authority my annual report for the year 1894, and in so doing have the pleasure to record a lower death-toll than that for the two preceding years. The corrected total number of deaths for 1894, after making the corrections in the subjoined table, is 194; the annual death rate per thousand is 14·9, and that for 1893 15·5. The total deaths and annual death rates for the several Registration sub-districts, after distribution of the deaths in Public Institutions, are as follows :

Vital Statistics.  
Death-rate.

SUB-DISTRICT.	Registered Deaths.	Cambs. Asylum.	Three Counties' Asylum.	Adden-brooke's Hospital & Hunts. Co. Hospital.	Share of Work-house.	Corrected Totals.	Death Rate.
Warboys ...	38	...	...	...	1	39	13·9
Somersham	47	...	...	...	4	51	14·8
Swavesey ...	49	2	...	1	1	53	18·0
St. Ives ...	48	...	...	...	3	51	13·6
Entire Distrt.	182	2	...	1	9	194	14·9

## Birth-rate.

The total number of births registered in the entire district is 315, equal to an annual birth rate of 24·3 per thousand living; and in the several sub-districts they are as follows :

Warboys	total births	83	birth rate	28·4
Somersham	„	73	„	21·2
Swavesey	„	63	„	21·4
St. Ives	„	96	„	25·6

In comparing the statistics of the year under consideration with those of the year previous it will be observed that the death rate has gone up in the Swavesey sub-district, while in the remaining four sub-districts it has very materially declined.

Zymotic  
Disease.

Deaths in the group of zymotic disease in the entire district have been from Scarlatina 1; Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 6; Diarrhoea 2; Whooping Cough 6; total 15; equal to a death rate from these diseases of 1·16 per thousand per annum; and in the several sub-districts they are as follows: Warboys 1·75; Somersham 0·87; Swavesey 1·02; St. Ives 1·07.

## Phthisis, &amp;c.

Deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs remain the same. The death rate from phthisis has sensibly declined, and now is two-thirds below the average rate for England and Wales.

Infantile  
Mortality.

Infantile mortality as represented by the ratio of deaths of children under one year of age to 1000 registered births, varies in the several sub-districts from 150 in Somersham, 145 in St. Ives, 144 in Warboys, to 111 in Swavesey.

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*DISEASE INCIDENCE.*

Disease  
Incidence.  
Small Pox.

No case of small pox has occurred during the year, but there was a risk of the introduction of the disease into the village of Somersham (March 26) by the visit of a man who had come to spend the day with some friends, whilst he was suffering from an



eruption of his skin, which was subsequently discovered to be the rash of small pox. The man had originally come from London to spend the Easter holidays with some friends at Willingham, in the Chesterton district, and during his stay there it was that he went to Somersham. The condition of his skin, which he attributed to a recent attack of influenza, was remarked upon at both the villages which he visited; two cases of small pox followed his visit to Willingham, and a porter with whom he conversed at St. Ives railway station also a few days after developed the disease. It subsequently transpired that the man was, a few days after his return to London, admitted to one of the Asylum Boards' Hospitals, suffering from small pox. Immediately after receiving information of his visit to Somersham, I communicated with the District Medical Officer residing there, asking him to watch the families the man had visited, and to offer re-vaccination to all persons with whom he had come in contact. Happily, no case followed. The man was evidently quite ignorant of the nature of his malady until his return to London.

Scarlet fever has not been widely prevalent in the district, Scarlet Fever. only three villages having been assailed. At Hemingford Grey, six cases occurred in two households; the first notified (March 18) at River View, was that of a child who had come from Scotland on a visit to his grandparents, and developed the disease so soon after his arrival as to suggest infection from Scotland. In April, six other cases occurred in one household, and had no traceable relationship with the earlier case, while on the other hand there was evidence to connect the invasion of the household with a visit to Woodhurst, where three cases existed in a family, which had recently migrated from St. Ives, and had developed the disease just before leaving or immediately after arrival. At Woodhurst, the three cases already mentioned were the only cases known. At Hilton, seventeen cases occurred in six households, the majority of them during the months of April and May, and were traceable to the operation of school assemblage after introduction of the disease into the school by members of the second household which was assailed at Hemingford, and attended the Hilton School. School closure,

precautionary advice, and thorough disinfection, were the best measures that could be adopted.

#### Diphtheria.

Two cases of diphtheria occurred in one household at Victoria Terrace, Hemingford Grey. Investigation showed the sanitary condition of the house to be good, and there was no history of infection from without, but a domestic cat which had been fondled by the sick child was obviously suffering from serious illness, stated to be of a month's duration, about the throat and fauces. Bacteriological culture on serum of fluid taken from the mouth gave rise to a few small colonies of the diphtheritic bacillus. The cat was subsequently destroyed, and its body subjected to further examination, the result leaving little doubt that the disease was of diphtheritic character, and that this was the source of the infection of the child. With regard to the subsequent case in the same household, it is uncertain whether the child caught the disease from the first child assailed or from the cat.

Three cases occurred at Earith. The first of them occurred (Nov. 27) at a house which is one of the cleanest in a sparsely inhabited part of the extreme west end of the village. There were found no circumstances in connection with the household that could in any way be associated with the illness; the sanitary condition of the school premises, however, were found to be very faulty, and were made the subject of a special report. The waters respectively supplied to both the dwelling-house and the school were chemically and bacteriologically examined; the former was found to be of fairly good quality, and that of the school much polluted. It is of special interest to mention that the bacteriological examination at the Pathological Laboratory, Cambridge, of the school water, gave evidence of the presence of the diphtheritic bacillus. Another case occurred in the same household (Jan. 5, of the present year). A month after the first case above mentioned, two cases occurred in two other households in its immediate neighbourhood. There is some slight history of a connection with the preceding case which could not be clearly traced.



Seven cases of typhoid fever have been notified, all of which Typhoid Fever. recovered. Two cases were notified at Swavesey, Somersham, and Worboys, respectively, and one at Hilton. In regard to the first of these, at Askew Row, Swavesey (Feb. 15), no satisfactory origin of the disease was forthcoming, but it is interesting to mention that a case occurred next door four years previously. The water supply was obtained from a public source which is not in the immediate vicinity of the house. The patient's husband, who was engaged at a dairy farm, was induced at once to give up his work for a time. A month later, another case occurred at a row of houses in the High Street, not very far distant from that above mentioned; no connection between the two cases could be discovered. The water supply was obtained from a pump in the yard, which was fed by the public supply pipe of the village. It is possible that the young man who was the victim of the disease may have contracted it at the town of St. Ives, or some other place in the district, as he had been travelling about in pursuit of his employment as a builder's labourer.

At Somersham, a case occurred (Feb. 23) which could not be satisfactorily accounted for. It is interesting to note a fact which frequently occurs, viz., that of the history of a previous case on the same premises, or near by, some considerable time back, in this case two years previously. The second case occurred in July, at the railway stationmaster's house; defects of drainage and water supply were discovered, which have been willingly remedied, on report by myself to the railway authorities.

At Hilton, a case occurred (Sep. 17). The disease appeared in a child, immediately on its arrival with its mother from Brooklyn, New York, U. S. A. The disease may have been contracted at a lodging-house in Southampton, or at Brooklyn, but on taking dates into account it was more probably contracted at the latter place. In order to obviate the possibility of subsequent cases in the household, I reported on the sanitary defects of the dwelling, but no serious attempt has been made to improve them.

At Worboys, a case occurred (Oct. 13), in a travelling van. A conference with the medical attendant indicated that the patient had been ill for a little under three weeks anterior to her arrival at Worboys. It appears she had come from Torrington, near Lynn, where she had been staying for a month, and had there been drinking polluted water. Under the direction of the medical attendant the discharges were disinfected with perchloride of mercury, and buried in a field, distant from any source of water supply. Another case occurred (Dec. 2) in another part of the village, but both the medical men were doubtful whether it was really a case of typhoid fever.

### *SANITARY CONSIDERATIONS.*

#### *Drainage.*

Not much sanitary work of important character has been effected during the year.

At Bury, where it will be remembered I called attention to the danger of excremental pollution of the water supply, a new sewer of 6 in. glazed pipes has been laid, to drain the cottages at the top of the hill and several others that have been recently built, and made to discharge into a ditch beyond the residential area of the place.

The drainage nuisances which I reported as existing at Holmes Yard, and adjacent property at Fenstanton, have been satisfactorily dealt with.

### *WATER SUPPLY.*

#### *Water Supply*

The serious danger of excremental pollution which threatens the public water supply of Swavesey has on several occasions during the year been discussed by the Authority, in connection with special reports made by myself. The question has recently been referred by the new District Council to the Parish Council, for consideration and report. It is earnestly to be hoped that there will be no unavoidable delay in devising an adequate remedy.



With regard to the Earith water supply, there has yet been no practical outcome of the discussion following my report of 1893, but in view of the serious pollution which was revealed by the analysis which was made in consequence of the outbreak of diphtheria, it would appear to be unsafe to postpone the question much longer.

The deep well discovered at Conington during the year 1893, still affords a plentiful supply of water, but I think my suggestion of last year with regard to standposts, would, if carried into effect, afford a safer supply both for this village and for Fenstanton.

Parish pumps have been repaired at Wistow, Warboys, Pidley, Somersham, Earith, Fenstanton, Swavesey, Over, Woodhurst, and Lolworth.

### *DILAPIDATED AND UNHEALTHY HOUSES.*

Papworth's Cottages, at Black Horse Lane, Swavesey, which I reported under sections 91 and 95 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as being so dilapidated as to be unfit for human habitation, have been vacated on notice served on the trustees by order of the Authority.

Dilapidated and  
Unhealthy  
Houses.

### *OVERCROWDING.*

A case of overcrowding occurred at Houghton, where a family of nine persons were found living in one room. The nuisance has been satisfactorily abated by the removal of the family from the house and from the village.

Overcrowding.

A case of overcrowding at West End, Warboys, was satisfactorily abated by inducing some of the members of the family to leave the house.

Appended hereto are the tables of vital statistics and the Inspector of Nuisances' record of work.

BUSHELL ANNINGSOON.



# INSPECTOR'S REPORT

OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE  
YEAR 1894.

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Complaints received during the year	...	...	250
Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected	...	...	270
Re-inspection of Houses, Premises, &c.	...	...	95
Cases of Overcrowding reported and abated	...	...	2
Dwellings Disinfected after illness of an infectious character			40
House Drains repaired, cleaned, trapped, &c.	...	...	55
Privies, &c., repaired	...	...	65
Offensive Ditches cleaned	...	...	10
Unwholesome Waters, &c.	...	...	2
Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other refuse removed	...	...	50
Swine Nuisances abated...	...	...	20
Parish Pumps repaired and Ponds cleaned out		...	16

(Signed)

J. ARCHER,

*Inspector.*

TABLE A.

*Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of St. Ives; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

[illegible]

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]



*Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of St. Ives; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.*

NOTE.—“Notification of Infectious Disease” has been compulsory in the District since 1st August, 1890. . . . There is no Isolation Hospital for the sick of the District.

† No reliable estimate as to population, 1894, can be made.











